

Docket No. 87305.0025
Customer No. 30734

Patent

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the following listing of claims for the claims pending in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) Grinding belt ~~Material machining belt~~ having a first end and a second end, especially a grinding or polishing belt, with releasable shape-mated connection device on said ends ~~an end~~ to form an endless belt, in which the shape-mated connection device is formed with a recess with a closed edge on said first end ~~the end~~ and a counterpiece on said second end ~~an other end~~, characterized in that the recess is designed as an elongated hole whose length corresponds roughly to a width of the grinding belt ~~material machining belt~~, the recess having a longitudinal axis that runs parallel to long sides of the grinding belt ~~material machining belt~~, in that the elongated hole has a first and a second region, in which an expansion in a transverse direction of the grinding belt ~~material machining belt~~, of the first region is greater than the expansion of the second region, and in that the first region faces said first end ~~the end~~ of the belt and the second region faces away from said first end ~~the belt the end of the belt~~.
2. (Currently Amended) Grinding belt ~~Material machining belt~~ according to Claim 1, characterized in that the first region is essentially round.
3. (Currently Amended) Grinding belt ~~Material machining belt~~ according to Claim 1, characterized in that a surrounding region of the elongated hole is stiffened.
4. (Currently Amended) Grinding belt ~~Material machining belt~~ according to Claim 1, characterized in that a ~~the~~ surrounding region of at least one recess or the elongated hole is coated with a hardening agent for stiffening.

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5. (Currently Amended) Grinding belt ~~Material machining belt~~ according to Claim 2, characterized in that a surrounding region of the elongated hole is stiffened.

6. (Currently Amended) Grinding belt ~~Material machining belt~~ according to Claim 2, characterized in that a ~~the~~ surrounding region of at least one recess is coated with a hardening agent for stiffening.

7. (Currently Amended) Grinding belt ~~Material machining belt~~ according to Claim 3, characterized in that a ~~the~~ surrounding region of at least one recess is coated with a hardening agent for stiffening.

8. (Currently Amended) Grinding belt ~~Material machining belt~~ according to Claim 5, characterized in that a ~~the~~ surrounding region of at least one recess is coated with a hardening agent for stiffening.

9. (Currently Amended) Grinding belt ~~Material machining belt~~ according to Claim 1, characterized in that the counterpiece is stiffened.

10. (Currently Amended) Grinding belt ~~Material machining belt~~ according to Claim 1, characterized in that a ~~the~~ surrounding region of at least one counterpiece is coated with a hardening agent for stiffening.

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11. (Currently Amended) Grinding belt ~~Material-machining belt~~ according to Claim 2, characterized in that a ~~the~~ surrounding region of at least one counterpiece is stiffened.

12. (Currently Amended) Grinding belt ~~Material-machining belt~~ according to Claim 2, characterized in that a ~~the~~ surrounding region of at least one counterpiece is coated with a hardening agent for stiffening.

13. (Currently Amended) Grinding belt ~~Material-machining belt~~ according to Claim 3, characterized in that a ~~the~~ surrounding region of at least one counterpiece is coated with a hardening agent for stiffening.

14. (Currently Amended) Grinding belt ~~Material-machining belt~~ according to Claim 5, characterized in that a ~~the~~ surrounding region of at least one counterpiece is coated with a hardening agent for stiffening.